



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

LALVANI et al.

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

March 29, 2004

**MS Patent Application**

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this application, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

Amended portions of the **specification** are presented on page 2.

The Sequence Listing is attached.

The **claims** are presented on pages 3-7.

**Remarks** begin on page 8.